

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3707

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USMISSION USBERLIN

ALCONSUL BREMEN 498Z

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: WALTHER LEISLER KIEP APPOINTED MINISTER OF
FINANCE IN LOWER SAXONY

REF: HAMBURG 240

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HANNOVER ON FEBRUARY 23,
MINISTER-PRESIDENT ERNST ALBRECHT ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT
OF WALTHER LEISLER KIEP, THE CDU NATIONAL PARTY TREASURER
AND ONE OF HIS PARTY'S MORE PROMINENT SPOKESMEN IN THE
FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS THE NEW MINISTER OF
FINANCE IN LOWER SAXONY. FOR THE TIME BEING KIEP WILL
ALSO SERVE AS MINSTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

2. WHEN ANNOUNCING THE KIEP APPOINTMENT, ALBRECHT IMPLIED
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THAT HE NO LONGER HAS MUCH HOPE OF ATTRACTING THE FDP

INTO A CDU/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR POSSIBLE FDP PARTICIPATION IN HIS GOVERNMENT, ALBRECHT ALSO NOTED THAT HE WILL DEFER FILLING THE REMAINING CABINET POSITIONS UNTIL AFTER AN FDP STATE CONVENTION IN APRIL.

3. MOST OBSERVERS HERE ARE READING INTO THE KIEP APPOINTMENT A SIGN THAT ALBRECHT INTENDS TO VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE POLISH AGREEMENTS IN THE BUNDESRAT. ALBRECHT IS KNOWN TO SHARE THE KIEP VIEW THAT ALTHOUGH THE POLISH AGREEMENTS WERE POORLY NEGOTIATED, THEY WOULD, AT LEAST, PERMIT AN INITIAL EMIGRATION OF 120,000 ETHNIC GERMANS WHICH, ONCE UNDER WAY, WOULD SET UP A MORAL MOMENTUM WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE EMIGRATION OF THE REMAINING ETHNIC GERMANS IN POLAND IN A RELATIVELY EASY MANNER.

4. DURING MY ATTENDANCE AT A DEBATE ON THE ALBRECHT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN THE LANDTAG IN HANNOVER ON FEBRUARY 26, I HOPE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH KIEP AND WILFRIED HASSELMAN, THE MINISTER FOR BUNDESRAT AFFAIRS, THE POSITION WHICH LOWER SAXONY WILL TAKE IN THE FORTHCOMING VOTE ON POLISH AGREEMENTS IN THE BUNDESRAT. I SHALL REPORT THEIR VIEWS THE FOLLOWING DAY. BROGAN

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